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Bad Aussee.

and forestry all found a home here. Progress and civilisation were spread through the surrounding virgin forests and through the properties which had been given to the monastery in Sausal and Untersteier. Often threatened by fire, the monastery has succeeded in preserving undamaged its famous treasury, the library with the frescoes of Altomonte and the masterpieces of J. T. Stammel up to the present day. During the heyday of the monastery, the flower of Austria's youth took their vows here, a long line of artists, men of learning and priests being noted in the chronicles of the monks during the course of a whole century. The great world, however, has forgotten most of their names, although historians still speak of Abbot Heinrich II, whose gifts of statesmanship resulted in the dignity of a Governor of Styria being added to his title of Abbot before he was treacherously murdered in 1297.

Better remembered in our own times are the names of the scholars Richard Peinlich and Albert von Muchar, after whom streets have been named by the provincial capital.

After a short, enforced pause, the rule of St. Benedict was re-established in the almost 900 year old cloister, a monastic revival in modern times of a venerable past.

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Towards the north, beyond the little village of Hall, where salt was crystallized out of the waters in the 12th century, and the hidden, solitary mills, the Haller Mauern majestically enclose the Admont Valley. How grand are the names of the Steinberge—Pyhrgas, Hochturm, Hexenturm and Natternriegel! And how grandly their cliffs and peaks glow beneath the summer sky. For nearly half the year through clear and frosty wintry days they are covered with a glittering mantle of snow.

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To the South the jagged Hahnstein rears its head, blocking the view to the higher peaks of Sparafeld and the Reichenstein. On the slopes of the Klosterkogel lies Röthelstein Castle. Lime trees stand in the outer courtyard, which is surrounded by a turreted and loopholed wall. A massive archway leads to the Residence which is known as a fine example of 17th and 18th century architecture.

1 [i.e. Admont Monastery — Analyst]

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Hallein, Salt Freighters.

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THE SALT MOUNTAINS OF AUSTRIA.

Salt-mining in Austria dates back to the prehistoric times of the Celts, was developed by the Romans and is closely connected with the growth of civilisation in the country.

The Austrian salt works in Upper Austria, Salzburg, Styria and Tyrol for a long time led an independent existence until Emperor Maximilian I put an end to it in the year 1490 by uniting all the Austrian Crown Lands under his rule.

His successor, Ferdinand I, set up a model organisation for the control of salt mining in his first edict.

In the year 1835 a salt monopoly was established in Austria as part of the introduction of other monopoly administrations. Technical discoveries made and developed in the course of the 19th century were first applied to the production of salt in the latter half of that period. Pressdrills using hydraulic pressure replaced boring machines worked by hand at Bad Ischl.

Electric power was introduced into the salt mines in the 'nineties, special power stations being set up in the mines themselves. Subsequently many hydraulic boring machines were replaced by power-driven borers.

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Salt Pans in the Lambach Area.

Great advantages were secured at this time by conducting surface water under pressure to the mines to water the underground facings. A passing attempt to introduce an irrigation process in 1908 was discontinued on account of the amount of gravel washed down from the Haselgebirge.

The second half of the 19th century brought great progress in the boiling process through the use of steam heat for preliminary warming of the saline solution. The works which were started at Ebensee for this procedure were subsequently considerably improved.

At Hall-in-Tyrol, a new electric thermo-compression plant is under construction for the production of fine salt.

Austria's salt mountains have been inhabited for hundreds of years by an ancient race of miners. Happy in the beauty of the surrounding countryside and inspired by love of their lovely native Austria, they hold fast to their ancient rights, customs and traditions.

This long-rooted attachment of the miner to his beloved salt mountain proved its value after the most terrible of all wars. The Austrian saline works were among the first concerns to resume work immediately after the collapse of the German

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317 occupation, thus allowing completely destitute Austria to procure a certain quantity of foodstuffs through compensation deals with foreign countries.

[529] Salt, the white treasure of the mountains, serves humanity in a modified form in another manner. Wherever salt is recovered, there have grown up famous spas such as Bad Ischl, Solbad Hall and Bad Aussee, where the same substance helps to heal various disorders.